

**Remarks**

The Office Action mailed April 5, 2004, has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing is made in consequence thereof.

Claims 15 and 16-22 are now pending in this application. Claims 15-17 and 21 stand rejected. Claims 18-20 and 22 stand objected to.

The rejection of Claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Hager et al. (U. S. Patent No. 6, 362,776) is respectfully traversed.

Claim 15 is amended to incorporate elements of Claim 18, which has been indicated as being allowable if written in independent form. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 15 is submitted to be patentable over Hager et al.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claim 15 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 16, 17, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Hager et al. ('776) in view of Hager et al. (U. S. Patent No. 6, 025,800) is respectfully traversed.

Claim 16 is canceled. Claim 17 depends from Claim 15 which is submitted to be patentable for at least the reasons given above. Claim 21 is amended to incorporate elements of Claim 22, which has been indicated as being allowable if written in independent form.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 16, 17, and 21 be withdrawn.

The objection to Claims 18-20 and 22 is respectfully traversed. Claims 18-20 depend from independent Claim 15 which is herein submitted to be patentable. Claim 22 depends from Claim 21 which is herein submitted to be patentable. For the reasons set forth above, Applicants request that the objection to Claims 18-20 and 22 be withdrawn.

Express Mail Label No.: EV458033564US

H0003011DIV  
PATENT

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert E. Slenker

Registration No. 45,112

ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP

One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600

St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740

(314) 621-5070